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Letter dated 23 April 2002 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have the honour to refer to the summary statement by the Secretary-General on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration (S/2002/30).

I should like to reiterate the Committee's continuing objection to the deletion from the list of items that relate to the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, which are of special concern not only to the Committee but also to the majority of Member States. The Committee believes that, pending a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine, in accordance with international legitimacy, these items should remain on the list of matters of which the Council is seized, as they continue to engage its primary responsibility with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security.

I should also like to emphasize that any decision to delete these items, especially at this very critical juncture in international efforts aimed at restoring calm on the ground and salvaging the peace process, would go well beyond a procedural exercise and would have far-reaching negative political implications. On behalf of the Committee, I would like once again to express the firm hope that decisions of such fundamental importance will be taken in thorough consultation with all the parties concerned.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Papa Louis **Fall**
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People

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